

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wound approximation device, the device comprising a resilient sheet and an opening, wherein the opening is of a sufficient size such that it surrounds a skin wound and exposes a margin of skin surrounding the wound when the resilient sheet in
5 a stretched form is placed against the skin, and wherein a portion of the resilient sheet adjacent to the opening and opposite to a side of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a substance which does not form a strong bond with a wound-sealing adhesive used to seal the wound.
2. The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the resilient sheet
10 comprises an elastomer.
3. The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the resilient sheet comprises a vinyl sheet.
4. The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the resilient sheet comprises a urethane sheet.
- 15 5. The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the portion of the resilient sheet adjacent to the opening and opposite to a side of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a vinyl.
6. The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the portion of the resilient sheet adjacent to the opening and opposite to a side of the resilient sheet to be
20 placed against the skin comprises a urethane.
7. The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the portion of the resilient sheet to be placed against the skin comprises a backing adhesive.
8. The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the backing adhesive comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive.
- 25 9. The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive comprises a butyl acrylate.
10. The wound approximation device of Claim 1, wherein the wound sealing adhesive comprises a cyanoacrylate.
11. A method of sealing a wound, the method comprising the steps of:
30 providing a wound approximation device, the device comprising a resilient sheet and an opening;

applying tension to the resilient sheet whereby the opening is enlarged to a sufficient size such that it may surround a skin wound and expose a margin of skin surrounding the wound;

5 pressing the resilient sheet under tension against the skin to form a bond to the skin, such that the opening surrounds the skin wound and exposes a margin of skin surrounding the wound; and

releasing the tension in the resilient sheet, whereby the wound is approximated.

10 12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of:
debriding the approximated wound.

13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of:
irrigating the approximated wound.

14. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of:
disinfecting the approximated wound.

15 15. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of:
sealing the approximated wound.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the step of sealing the approximated wound comprises suturing the approximated wound.

20 17. The method of Claim 15, wherein the step of sealing the approximated wound comprises stapling the approximated wound.

18. The method of Claim 15, wherein the step of sealing the approximated wound comprises applying a wound sealing adhesive to the approximated wound.

25 19. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of:
removing the wound approximation device from the skin, wherein said step is conducted after the step of sealing the approximated wound.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the resilient sheet comprises a urethane sheet, and wherein the step of sealing the approximated wound comprises applying a cyanoacrylate adhesive to the approximated wound.